

THREE COUNT[©]

Volume 1, Number 32

April 28, 1992

Steiners (1)		Hase-Nogami (2)
Perez-Boricua		Headhunters
Benoit-Wellington (8)		Silver Kings (5)
Pillman-Lyger		Freebirds
Williams-Gordy (4)		Anderson-Eaton (3)
The O'Deas		Rhodes-Windham
The Malenkos (7)		Rude-Austin (6)
Koloff-Steamboat		Zenk-Bagwell

WCW Releases NWA Seedings

By ALEX MARVEZ
Three Count Editor

World Championship Wrestling released the seedings of its National Wrestling Alliance tag-team tournament at an April 24 news conference, with the opening round set for the June 16 Clash of Champions in Charleston, S.C. (8:05 p.m., TBS).

To elaborate on the foreign teams, **Hiroshi Hase** and **Akira Nogami** will represent Japan. The two are not regular teammates, as Hase usually teams with **The Great Muta** and Nogami wrestles as a single in New Japan Pro Wrestling's light-heavyweight division. **The Silver Kings** (**El Texano** and **Silver King**) wrestle for Mexico's UWA group, and are regarded as one of the top tag-teams in the world. One has to question, though, how good they will look paired against **The Freebirds**. **The Malenkos**, seeded seventh, live in Tampa and work for All Japan Pro Wrestling. **Joe Malenko** has cut his touring schedule to one month a year because of success in his pharmaceutical company, so **Dean Malenko** is wrestling as a single in AJPW's light-heavyweight division. The eighth seed is Canada's **Chris Benoit** and **Biff Wellington**, a team which has the potential to work a match-of-the-year candidate with **Jushin Lyger** and **Brian Pillman**. Benoit is regarded as one of the Top 15 workers in the world, while Wellington had similar potential, although he has not wrestled in at least one year.

Other foreign entries include **The Headhunters** from the Dominican Republic, **Miguel Perez** and **El Boricua** from Puerto Rico and the O'Dea's from Australia (promoter Larry and his son). The remainder of the tournament will take place July 12 at the Great American Bash in Philadelphia.

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Briefly

- The depositions of **Vince McMahon** and **Pat Patterson** in regards to the lawsuit concerning breach of contract filed by former WWF announcer **Murray Hodgson** were delayed April 24 for two weeks. The depositions are expected to induce another avalanche of media coverage of Hodgson's law suit.

- **Barry Windham** won the WCW Television Title from **Steve Austin** April 27 in a match taped for the May 9 episode of *WCW Saturday Night*. Windham won the first fall (while juicing hardway from the mouth) with a super-plex at the eight-minute mark. Austin (sporting a very short haircut) won the second fall with a hot-shot six minutes later. The finale came when Austin grabbed the TV title from **Paul E. Dangerously**. Austin swung and missed Windham, allowing Windham to gain the pinfall. After the bout, Austin whipped Windham with the belt and took it back to the dressing room.

Also on the May 9 show, **Rick Rude** was the guest for the main interview. Guest host **Randy Owen** from the country music group Alabama began the questioning by asking Rude why he left the WWF. Rude said they were holding him back after he had defeated **The Ultimate Warrior** and felt it was time to move on.

For the show scheduled to air May 16, **Scotty Flamingo** wrestled **Johnny B. Badd** in the feature bout. Scotty pinned Badd with a roll-up for the first fall, while Badd evened up the
(Continued on Page 12)

TV Summary

The following is a weekly feature briefly summarizing some of the wrestling/body-building television action featured during the past weekend. In future weeks, this report will be expanding to cover more areas.

WBF Body Stars

Highlights: Well-produced features on WBF stars Tony Pearson and David Dearth; The increasing incorporation of other quasi-popular sports (two-man volleyball, powerboat racing, motorcross) to help boost the show's dismal 0.7 average rating on the USA Network; Vince McMahon bungee jumping in Europe.

Lowlights: A continuing emphasis on sex to help sell the WBF's product in a timeslot reserved for children's programming; A ridiculous chart for increasing natural growth hormone production daily by Dr. Fred Hatfield that required a 16-hour work-out; Lex Luger saying, "I can actually control how big and how strong I get just by doing certain growth hormone-related activities. As a matter of fact, I'm one gigantic, raging hormone"; The bungee cord not snapping on McMahon's leap.

Three Count 10-point scale rating: 3.

WWF Superstars of Wrestling

Highlights: Well-planned finish to The Undertaker-Berserker match, which saw Berserker plunge his sword through the mat in an attempt to stab the Taker; Mr. Fuji holding Paul Bearer's urn; Well-scripted Sid Justice interview; Hype for Ultimate Warrior-Skinner match on next week's show.

Lowlights: Local Kerry Von Erich promo restating his claims of dedication to his "family, religion, country and WWF".

Three Count rating: 7.

WCW Saturday Night

Highlights: Perhaps the best (albeit highly fictional) interview ever given by Nikita Koloff to explain his upcoming feud with Big Van Vader; Use of old footage to highlight Koloff and bury Lex Luger; A good two-of-three falls match between Barry Windham

and Steve Austin that ended with the television time limit expiring after Windham had won one fall.

Lowlights: Guest host Bill Fralic added little to Jim Ross's commentary; More squash matches that make the talk-show format drag.

Three Count rating: 5.

Sheet Spotlight

Here's a look at the top stories of some of the other wrestling newsletters, with subscription information:

• **Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer Newsletter** (April 20): The usual excellent job of all-around coverage from Japanese, Mexican and American territories; Analysis of why Wrestlemania VIII was disappointing on pay-per-view. (April 27): Update on Murray Hodgson's WWF lawsuit; Analysis of WCW's Saturday Night; Excerpts from interview with steroid expert Bob Goldman; Plenty of news from Japan and other territories. Weekly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228.

• **Wade Keller's Pro Wrestling Torch** (April 23): Complete explanation by Joe Pedicino about why he and Boni Blackstone left the Global Wrestling Federation; Well-written and informative column by Chris Zavisla explaining New Japan Pro Wrestling's successful use of mid-card wrestlers. Weekly; \$1.25 an issue (Free sample available). P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis MN 55420.

• **Steve Sims's Lucha Libre Weekly** (April 21): First news that El Satanico retained the NWA light-heavyweight title against The Ultimate Dragon April 18 in Tokyo; Comprehensive run down of CMLL and UWA news; Complete title history of the NWA light-heavyweight title. Weekly; \$1 an issue. 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-3003.

• **Ron Lemieux's Arena Report** (April 20): Bi-weekly; \$1 an issue. P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547.

• **Jeff Mullins' Pro Wrestling Sushi** (April 1992): More gems from Jeff's off-beat sense of humor, including a hilarious Eddie Gilbert-Madusa spoof; Good humiliation of newsletter writers through bizarre imaginary situations. Monthly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 36189, San Jose CA 95158.

• **Vince Russo's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Weekly** (April 20): An analysis and results of Wrestlemania VIII; More of Vince's "Making of a Champion" series; Interview with referee Ron Barrier; One paragraph of "Mat Memories" written by Johnny Valiant. Weekly; \$1.50 an issue. 99 Middle Country Rd., Corum NY 11727.

• **Evan Ginzburg's Wrestling Then and Now** (April 1992): Chronological history of the Von Erichs in St. Louis; Interview with Verne Langdon of Slamer's Gym; Anthology of wrestling in 1920. Monthly; \$1.25 an issue. P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing NY 11364.

• **Jason Shepard's Wrestling Weekly** (April 17): Wrestlemania VIII results; Analysis of Geraldo and Now It Can Be Told pieces concerning the WWF's alleged sex scandal; Match results and wrestler rankings. Weekly; \$1.25 an issue. 1110 Vine St., Wisconsin Dells WI 53965.

• **Mike Sawyer's Legdrop** (April 20): Report from April 8 WWF television taping; Review of various New York wrestling radio shows; Reprint of puff-piece newspaper article on Jim Duggan. Weekly; \$1.25 an issue. 831 Pasadena Ave., Niagra Falls NY 14304.

• **Gary Langevin's On The Mat** (May/June 1992): Complete reprinting of WWF scandal articles from the Los Angeles Times, New York Post and Village Voice; Transcript of the March 15 Donahue show. Bi-monthly; \$2 an issue. 124 Maple St., Newport VT 05855-1418.

• **Paul Dizadji's Hevily Papered** (April 18): Self-touted as a "rather predictable work of satire," but funny nonetheless; Amusing comments about Paul Hanlin Jr's column in Three Count 29 calling for Madusa to turn babyface; Unknown printing schedule; \$1 an issue. 9717 S. Keeler Apt. 102, Oak Lawn IL 60453.

THREE COUNT®

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WWF Scandals Produce No Heroes

(Editor's note: *Three Count* reader **Vic Stanley** submitted the following guest editorial "for edification and consideration." It has received both. *Vic* also produces two newsletters -- "A stream of Semi-Consciousness" (a media fanzine) and *Screwjob Finish* (billed as "wrestling's noisiest fanzine). Write to *Vic* for more information at P.O. Box 176, Lafayette IN 47902-0176.)

Since it's far too late to simply tell the truth, the only way **Vince McMahon** can ride out the current WWF scandals is by working both sides of the fence. He's doing it already. On one hand, he portrays Titan Sports as the paragon of sports entertainment. He loves the mainstream press coverage when they print his WWF propaganda, and takes credit for single-

Vic Stanley

handedly taking wrestling out of smoke-filled arenas of old, providing a family-oriented spin to it and transforming it into a wholesome, legitimate mainstream form of entertainment. On the other hand, for the sake of a minimum amount of negative mainstream press and the reaction to it, Vince is counting on the fact that wrestling is NOT generally considered a wholesome form of entertainment, and that the casual observer will take the scandals in stride because "that's just sleazy, smarmy wrestling -- the same it's always been." That's how the *Donahue* audience and most non-fans perceived it, and that is McMahon's ace in the hole.

Whether or not he can pull this damage control campaign off is anybody's guess, although I feel he will survive relatively unscathed after a few "under the table" payoffs to referees, announcers, ring attendants and wrestlers, whether they have legitimate cases or not. As time goes on, all parties involved will agree upon substantial cash settlements out of court. Some, like **Tom Cole**, already have. So, regardless of the legitimacy, or lack thereof, of their claims, they are basically grabbing their piece of the pie while they can. It's the Andy Warhol "15 minutes of fame" syndrome, and it will pass. I doubt very much that these people will become life-long advocates of wrestling reform once the checks have been cashed.

Surprisingly, the sex angle is the easiest aspect of McMahon's problems to overcome. After all, who in the U.S. government is going to prosecute or introduce legislation against him for sexual misconduct within the wrestling business? Politicians are not exactly paragons of respectability, either, and in the midst of their own relentless scandals, they are not going to risk damage to the delicate veneer of their own facades on something as silly as pro wrestling. Wrestling is nothing more than a metaphor for the political caste system, anyway. Only the costumes change -- from tights to blue suits -- uniforms all. Everything else, including drug abuse, corruption, extortion, bribery and sexual deviance, is the same. McMahon is a lightweight compared to even the most consequential congressman. He would never survive the electoral process. That's why he is a self-imposed dictator. Not so much JFK as wrestling's **Manuel Noriega** -- only with better attorneys, which leads directly into his next problem.

The matter of drugs, while not the most sensational-

istic aspect of McMahon's woes, relatively speaking, may be the toughest problem to resolve. If McMahon were really smart, when future investigations take place, he would launch a rhetorical counter-attack against the DEA, claiming they are using the WWF as a hapless, high-profile scapegoat in their futile, simulated "war on drugs" when they should be busy arresting big-time drug czars who in actuality are their multinational business partners. The more McMahon can portray himself as a victim, the better off he'll be. Anytime a private citizen can be presented as a manipulated pawn of a fantastic government conspiracy, he is considered to be a sympathetic character, if not a hero to some (except **Leona Helmsley**, but McMahon is a better actor). A year from now, steroids won't be missed. The little Hulkamaniacs will be worshipping 20-inch pythons, and **Jushin Lyger** or **Chris Benoit** will be the high-profile WWF light-heavyweight champion. Muscle size is all relative, and is in the process of being down-scaled in the entire wrestling universe.

I am no fan of Vince McMahon, and am not thrilled with how he has forever changed the business. I am merely attempting to take a step back and view the situation with an unbiased, albeit slightly jaundiced eye. I really don't see any heroes in this situation. Is **Billy Graham**, **David Shults** or **Barry Orton** really the savior of wrestling? I don't think so. Certainly, Cole is no hero. Would the fans accept Orton as world champion? Would Graham be preaching his gospel if he were still healthy, as are many other active or former wrestlers who also abused steroids with no apparent negative effects? What does Shults have to say about his appearance on the *Morton Downey Show* several years ago when he had to be physically restrained from pummeling **Jim Wilson** for attempting to expose homosexual harassment in wrestling before it became fashionable? Admittedly, Wilson greatly overstated his potential as championship fodder, but much of what he was saying, which has since proven to be factual, was adamantly denied by Shults, **Lou Albano** and **Ted Arcidi** on that very show. Would **Bruno Sammartino** be so vocal in his attacks against the WWF if he had come to satisfactory contract terms with them, or if they continued to employ his son, David, after he lost 80 pounds of steroid muscle? Was it solely a philosophical disapproval of what McMahon was doing to the business? I don't think so. I think it was a personal matter, the real details of which we may never know.

The attention garnered by a high-profile business such as wrestling has been more of a curse than a blessing for the WWF lately, but it is all part of the corporate game. Racial and sexual harassment are elements of all big business, not just wrestling. Even the U.S. government has been guilty of practicing prejudice and intimidation within management and the rank and file. Fortunately, it has become the exception rather than the rule. What will it take, short of the demise of McMahon's stranglehold on his empire, to purge the WWF of these distasteful and unacceptable practices? If it is a matter of honesty and character -- real character, not the Hulkamania character -- the problems will never be resolved.

Scandal Coverage Making a Difference

It is quickly approaching one year since pro wrestling ceased to be fun or many newsletter readers.

That was when the shift of "inside" newsletter bulletins shifted from just covering news and gossip on the sport to real-life matters. Anabolic steroids. Athletic commissions. False advertising. Sexual harassment.

From recently reading the letters pages of various publications, it is obvious that some fans have heard enough of the alleged actions and claims of the World Wrestling Federation (the promotion which has taken the brunt of

Alex Marvez

the negative publicity). In the April 27 issue of the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter*, Dave Meltzer offers his response:

"These are all charges that need to be examined, INDIVIDUALLY, not collectively, and not be used as part of people's political agenda. And they are far too important to be ignored because some people can't handle reality treading into their fantasy world for more than a few weeks; or because they want to believe wrestling on the surface is fantasy that any reality, no matter how heinous, cannot be taken as a serious issue; or because they have been brain-washed to the knee-jerk reaction of it 'hurts the business' when bad publicity gets out, ignoring that all the years of ignoring and pretending these abuses haven't existed under the guise of protecting the business have created more persons physical and psychological scarring and damage than this business has the ethical right to inflict."

I truly believe in Meltzer's second point. Many people are simply tired of hearing the same accusations over and over again. Others question how legitimate some of these claims are when made by people who haven't been in the business for several years. And some simply either don't care or will defend the WWF to the end in regards to the allegations raised.

I respect those opinions. Personally, I often grow weary of writing what the *Miami Herald* has occasionally referred to as a "police blotter" column. But just take a look at what changes these stories have brought about.

- Steroid use appears significantly lower in both the WWF and WCW as a result of the negative publicity, and both groups have enacted policies. That is a major factor in the long-term, as possible health-related damage due to the drug's use could be curtailed. It will also help wrestling's image should a major star begin suffering steroid-related ailments and blames pro wrestling

for his physical condition.

- Smaller, talented wrestlers are being promoted near the top on WWF cards. Think Shawn Michaels would get such a push if Vince McMahon could continue to promote muscle-bound behemoths? WCW has promoted a light-heavyweight division, and seems intent on promoting a high-flying, physical style of wrestling most inside fans have dreamed about for years.

- Both the WWF and WCW have greatly altered their philosophies concerning false advertising (on the whole). WCW even announces prior to a show which performers are not appearing and offers a refund. They even made a concerted effort to announce Sting's recent injuries on the first available WCW telecast.

- If the allegations by former WWF employees concerning homosexual activities by Pat Patterson, Terry Garvin and Mel Phillips were true, sexual harassment will likely never happen again in a WWF locker room.

It appears obvious the WWF and WCW are a long way from being steroid-free. The WWF is still promoting muscular performers on the top of its cards, and heavily touts the World Bodybuilding Federation, which promotes a sport inherently connected with anabolic steroid use. Some WCW stars obviously are not "shrinking" either. But continuing pressure may force those changes as well. And what has been achieved would never have come about had wrestling been left alone.

Now, onto Florida news:

- Howard Brody's Ladies Major League Wrestling promoted a show April 20 before 727 people (525 paid) at the Fort Lauderdale War Memorial. Match results saw Debbie Malenko defeat A.J. Watson (Malenko drove home to Land O' Lakes after the show and caught a flight to Japan the next day for her All Japan Women's Pro Wrestling tour), Susan Green pinned The Red Vortex, and got the old King Kong Bundy five count (Vortex was Penelope Paradise working underneath a mask as a babyface), Luna Vachon defeated Ronnie Rage (Vachon was managed by long-time newsletter reader Dave Flaherty under the pseudonym Mark Smart), Penelope Paradise and Lady X (Peggy Lee Leather) were both disqualified for using foreign objects, and Judy Martin-Lelanai Kai defeated Bambi-Candi Divine (Steve Collins managed Penelope and Peggy as Sir Oliver Humperdink was a no-show). No-shows included Wendi Richter and Maliah Hosaka (who were

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No WCW Angles Can Help Hyatt

With a tip of the hat to Bill Conlin of the *Philadelphia Daily News*:

When I'm king of the wrestling columnists...

All WCW Clashes of Champions and pay-per-view shows will not have that God-awful ramp which leads to the ring. Every time I see it, it reminds me of wrestling in Toronto's Maple Leaf gardens and a fashion show in Paris. If I want to see people walk down a runway, I can watch CNN's *Style with Elsa Klensch*..

Paul Hanlin Jr.



What's worse than being cannon fodder for the Steiners in TV squashes and messing up left and right while doing it? Rick and Scott get a tad bit miffed when opponents don't sell their power moves correctly. Wouldn't you love to have a tape of nothing but Steiners squashes from hell that will never air on TBS?

Cage matches which end in a DQ? World title cage matches ending where the challenger wins, walks out with the belt, fans thinking title change and they forget to mention that it was a non-title match? Another glorious night of WCW wrestling. Actually, no. Would you believe this took place at a few WWF house shows just before Wrestlemania? Has **Dusty Rhodes** been doing a little moonlighting on the side?

When I'm king of the wrestling columnists...

TV wrestling shows of both U.S. major promotions will consist of one syndicated hour and one 90-minute show on cable. Far too much is being given away for free and is turning fans into couch potatoes who normally attend the house shows (which in turn may see things exactly described in the last paragraph). That's what last year's short-lived strike by wrestlers for Mexican wrestling groups EMLL and UWA were all about. TV giveth wrestling a lot of exposure, but as this Faustian bargain has shown, TV slowly taketh away the motivation of going to the arena. As it will for "real" sports when they discover what we already know: The cash cow that is pay-per-view...NOT!

Koji Kitao might be inspired to give **Hulk Hogan** a buzz and compare notes in regard to "job" status. Kitao, you may recall, recently joined the Union of Pro Wrestling Force International (UWFI), **Nobuhiko Takada's** promotion which was an "off-shoot" (pardon the pun) of former tag-team partner **Akira Maeda's** old UWF shoot-

fighting group. This is the same **Koji Kitao** who, 13 months ago, shouted into the house microphone at a Super Worlds Sports card in front of thousands of fans that pro wrestling was fake. Kitao, according to the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter*, will get paid \$75,000 a match and would never, ever have to do a job. He is scheduled to debut for UWFI May 8 against veteran strong-style wrestler **Kazuo Yamazaki**. Talk about attitude adjustments.

When I'm king of the wrestling columnists...

Please remember you heard it here first. The **Madusa-Missy Hyatt** challenge (volleyball) on WCW's June 20 pay-per-view show from Mobile, AL, will be a jump-serve competition. Both participants will be judged on how high they jump, speed of the serve and, in Missy's case, if she pops out of her clothing while hitting a 90 M.P.H. screamer over the net. Fans will then dial a \$10 per second 900-number to cast their votes, with the average special event call lasting 3 1/2 minutes.

WCW will have to move heaven and earth to make fans cheer Missy. Nothing, not even if she winds up on the receiving end of two **Atsushi Onita** thunder fire power bombs, followed by a frankensteiner off the top rope, topped with a **Big Van Vader**-like powerslam by each member of the Dangerous Alliance in succession, will make me boo Madusa.

To sunshine state readers of this newsletter or any of my editor's colleagues at the *Miami Herald*: Should you run into an athlete currently on a well-deserved Florida vacation as this goes to press, and you just might, tell her this -- Please, **Bonnie Blair**, don't let the U.S. Olympic team get Lillehammered (as in Lillehammer, Norway) without you. Make the 1994 Winter Olympics your last hurrah.

I must take a one-week hiatus, as the national exam for what I've been studying the past three months for beckons May 6. We will resume 14 days hence. I want to thank Alex for the continued opportunity to present wrestling fandom's only weekly column to my knowledge not written by an editor. It's something I'm proud of. As well as to you, the readers, I hope I've made, and will continue to make, a difference.

Remember dear readers, as this goes to press, only 77 days remain until the Philadelphia Bash. Has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

And where have you gone, Jamison?...

Paul would appreciate any comments, objections or biting criticisms to his weekly column. Send letters, etc. to Three Count or 5283 Glenlock St., Philadelphia, PA 19124.

Montini Turn Helps Magic Top Fiera

This week's Galavision show turned out to be very entertaining. The show aired April 26 and was originally taped April 17.

1) The show began with the quick and very colorful team of Japanese girls **Mita** and **Akira** against the rough, experienced Mexican duet of **Lola Gonzalez** and **Xochitl Hamada**. The Japanese girls got everyone fired up early when they picked up heel referee **El Gato Montini** and carried him around the ring as if he was their hero. I really thought the Japanese girls were going to tear the Mexicans apart, but the latter was surprisingly good and won the

Carlos Rey

first fall. The rudas came out in a fury for the second fall, and at one point, Montini became physically involved by holding back Lola while the rudas double-teamed Hamada. This led to a double submission as the rudas used las cruzetas (scorpion deathlock/Boston crab). The third fall ended with Akira doing an incredible somersault to outside the ring, and after a brawl, she managed to beat the referee's count into the ring and won the match. Rumor has it **Negro Casas** is jumping from the UWA to the EMLL because Hamada is there.

2) This was a midget match between **Piratico Morgan-Espectrito-El Pequeño Pierroth** vs. **Misterioso-Octagoncito-Mascarita Sagrada**. I know some people find it hard to watch midget wrestling, but I'm sure half the wrestlers in the world can't do half the moves they do. The first fall had both teams tear into each other just like their full-grown counterparts would (I'd like to point out that when the midget wrestler's big brothers have a feud, the midgets adopt the feud as well). Espectrito was left unable to answer the count by Sagrada, Octagoncito pinned Pierroth and Misterioso pinned Morgan. The second fall saw a strong rudo comeback as Espectrito and Morgan double-teaming Sagrada for the pin, Pierroth and Espectrito pinning Octagoncito and Morgan pinning Misterioso. The rudos remained strong in the final fall, as Morgan fouled Octagoncito. But the tide turned when Pierroth accidentally hit both his partners and was pinned by Misterioso. The technicos then said the reason the rudos lost was because of Pierroth, causing his rudo teammates to turn on him.

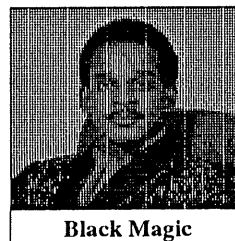
3) The third match pitted **Los Brazos** against **Angel Azteca-Misterioso-El Volador**, a bout which did not feature a bad worker. Before the bout started, the announcers brought up that Volador was a real professional because his father had just died, but he was owing up to his contract dates. Everyone expressed their admiration and sympathy. The third fall looked as if it would go to los technicos, but **Porky** (**El Brazo de Plata**) pinned Misterioso, **Brazo de Oro** pinned Volador and **El Brazo** pinned Azteca. The second fall featured some incredible acrobatics by Volador and Misterioso, including a great lance (dive outside the ring) from Volador onto Porky. Azteca pinned



El Brazo, Misterioso pinned Oro and Porky could not answer the count. I'd like to point out that although nothing was said on the show, the way Porky was grabbing his chest made me believe he was in pain (although I know it could be a work). He definitely needs to bring his weight down. Volador went outside the ring to see if Porky was OK, but Porky shoved him, Misterioso pushed Porky, Oro pushed Misterioso and Volador shoved Oro. The sequence looked very abnormal on television. Finally, everyone re-entered the ring and began the match again. Brazo pinned Azteca, Porky pinned Volador and Misterioso was left unable to answer the count. Right after Porky scored the pin, you could tell something was wrong by his facial expressions. El Brazo came over and began massaging his chest (which makes me think this is a work). The announcers tried to downplay this by saying that Volador's lance hit Porky in the chest. **Dave Meltzer** of the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* reported that Porky was having heart problems. I think it is starting to show, which is sad because he is so much fun to watch.

Then came a good interview with **La Fiera**, where he stated that Mexican wrestlers are of a much-higher caliber than foreigners that appear. He also said he was going to pick up where **Blue Panther** had left off (in Panther's feud against **Art "Love Machine" Barr** against **Black Magic** (**Norman Smiley**)).

4) Magic defeated Fiera in two-of-three falls in a great match. I think Magic is finally being given his due. If you have followed his singles career, I think Magic should have been a singles main-eventer long before this week. Magic will also appear in the six-man main event next week. These two tore into each other from the start, but you knew Magic was in trouble when Fiera gave him a low-blow right in front of Montini and no disqualification was called for. From that point on, Fiera looked awesome and appears to have returned to his former glory (he must have read what I have written about him in previous columns). Fiera made Magic submit to a variation of an armbar. The second fall saw Magic gain a submission with un cangrejo (half Boston crab). The third fall brought us the biggest surprise of the show. Magic was scolding Montini for giving him slow counts and was jumped from behind by Fiera. It looked really bad for Magic until he suddenly hit a suplex and bridge. Montini quickly made the three count on a furious Fiera, who said Montini had betrayed los rudos at the end of the show.



Black Magic

*Carlos Rey has watched lucha libre for more than 10 years, and cannot get enough of the style. He not only writes a weekly column for **Three Count**, but, in addition, has tapes of Galavision shows available. Write to him at 996 West 45th Place, Hialeah FL 33012 for more information. He is hoping to begin receiving tapes of the UWA soon. Look for more details and a review here.*

Misawa Needs Boost in AJPW

May 14, 1990: Tiger Mask teams with Toshiaki Kawada to face Yoshiaki Yatsu and Samson Fuyuki, Kawada's former partner in the Footloose tag-team. Tiger removes his mask and proclaims, "I am Misawa." Mitsuhiro Misawa, that is, and finishes the match by pinning Fuyuki.

June 8, 1990: All Japan Pro Wrestling runs one of its famous Budokan Hall spectacles headlined by Jumbo Tsuruta (the group's top star) against Misawa. After

John Muse

a 24 minute, five-star match, Misawa upsets Tsuruta.

A star is born. But since then, has the star lost his luster?

July 27, 1990: Stan Hansen pins Misawa to win the vacant Triple Crown title. Note: The Crown was vacated when Terry Gordy was hospitalized after collapsing in a bar from taking pain-killers and drinking alcohol that morning. Gordy had been scheduled to defend against Misawa.

September 1, 1990: Tsuruta pins Misawa in 25 minutes at Budokan Hall.

April 18, 1991: Tsuruta pins Misawa again at Budokan, this time retaining the Triple Crown.

March 4, 1992: Hansen pins Misawa at Budokan to defend the Triple Crown.

April 2, 1992: Tsuruta and Misawa fight to a draw in Yokohama. This bout was part of the Carnival Championship tournament.

April 17, 1992: Hansen pins Misawa to win the Carnival tournament in Nagoya.

Just because something makes sense does not always mean it will happen, even in All Japan. I guess we can forget my last article and headline. Once again, Misawa failed to win a big singles match when all signs indicated a victory. Hansen had no reason to win the Carnival Championship, but the Bad Man from Borger, Tx., (who actually now resides in Jackson, Tenn.) defeated Misawa for the second time in less than two months. A loss by Hansen would have made Misawa the logical contender for the Triple Crown and restored some lost faith in Misawa.

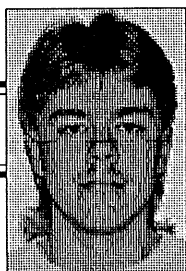
After Genichiro Tenryu left All Japan in April 1990 for a five-year, \$3.3 million contract with Super World Sports, promoter and AJPW owner Shohei "Giant" Baba was left with a huge void to fill. It appeared

that AJPW had been dealt a crippling blow. Baba looked to his young lions (Misawa, Kawada, Kenta Kobashi and Tsuyoshi Kikuchi) to step up and fill Tenryu's shoes. This move breathed life into the promotion and many people, myself included, praised Baba for taking a gamble. Almost two years later, these same young lions, with the exception of Misawa, have yet to score a big win over guys like Tsuruta, Hansen, Gordy and Steve Williams. The time has come for Baba to take another gamble.

It's hard to criticize someone who is so successful at what he does. AJPW's six-man main events have headlined most of the shows for the past two years, drawing sell-outs and rave reviews almost nightly. Baba may be giving the public what it wants, but the same guys against the same guys for two years kind-of wears on you. All promoters and bookers are stubborn. They don't like to change the formula or address a problem until they have no other choice. If the UWF had never formed, count-outs and disqualifications would be the rule and not the exception. If Tenryu had never jumped to the SWS, Misawa would probably still be Tiger Mask and Kobashi and Kikuchi would be in the middle of the card. The time is drawing near or Baba to address the problem of hurting his future stars to keep his older stars on top. AJPW has another Tokyo Budokan spectacular set for June 5. Will Baba change the formula?

- In WCW/New Japan Pro Wrestling related news, Akira Nogami and Hiroshi Hase are coming to WCW or the NWA tag-team tournament. Nogami wrestled as Akira on last year's WCW Japan Supershow. While Nogami is a top worker for NJPW, I think Keiji Muto would be a better partner for Hase. The most encouraging news is that Chris Benoit will probably be a part of the tournament. Chris has deserved a shot, and would be a great addition to WCW.

- Ric Flair and The Natural Disasters competed for the SWS from April 16-18, teaming the first night to defeat Tenryu, Ashura Hara and Takashi Ishikawa. On April 17 in Yokohama, Flair defeated Tenryu with a back suplex in 20:54. The SWS tag-team titles changed hands as The Disasters defeated George-Shinichi Takano (who had won the belts the previous night from Haku and Yoshiaki Yatsu). The next night at the Tokyo Coliseum, Tenryu defeated Flair in a two-of-three fall match. Flair won the first fall with a figure four, and Tenryu won the last two with power bombs. Haku and Yatsu regained the tag-team titles by defeating the Disasters. The April 18 show was taped for television. Special thanks to the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter* for some SWS info.



Spotlight on: Michelle DeQuattro

Never let it be said that Three Count does not support literary efforts as well as the traditional interview format in its Spotlight section. This week's feature is written by Micehlle DeQuattro, the wife of New York City musician Dore DeQuattro, and concerns Dore's exploits in organizing a March 31 news conference concerning sexual harassment charges against the WWF

The zeal of a mad scientist, the irresistibility of a bishon puppy and the shrewdness of a successful stockbroker all incongruously possessed **Dore DeQuattro**. He darted back and forth from the dining room phone to the kitchen counter phone making and receiving calls. The scene resembled a frantic tennis match, only Dore was playing himself. As he hit the ball from one side, he sprinted to the other side of the net and hit it back. I watched in dizzying disbelief, out of breath at the sight of my husband's fervor. While those he conversed with sat calmly in their plush Manhattan offices, with the finest telephone and fax technology, Dore persevered with his own anachronistic tools. Not a soul to assist him. Not even me.

The dining room phone sat awkwardly on the scratched glass table, a sufficient desk substitution that was a disorganized swirl of crumpled papers and napkins, scribbled with phone numbers, names and notes. No other human being could possibly decipher these codes except Dore himself. The kitchen phone had a greasy film of olive oil spilled on it by me from the previous night's pasta dinner. The counter was tiny and overcrowded with an assortments of pencils, pens and an oversized microwave over. The kitchen and dining room serve as the focal point for meals, cooking and moderate administrative activity for the DeQuattro household on a regular basis. This week, however, the drive, ambition and productivity executed in this minuscule area of a one-bedroom Queens apartment far exceeded that of a Wall Street skyscraper packed with one hundred corporate entities.

Dore, one of nine million New Yorkers, many of whom dream of instant fame, decided he would achieve notoriety this week. He decided he would have a press conference. He would take a shot at the impossible. Most would snicker at the thought, but to Dore, it was possible. In Dore's mind, nothing is too absurd to implement. One does not need any training to accomplish what they wish. They need chutzpah, brains and inordinate amounts of stick-to-it-avness. He had never conducted a press conference before, much less spent a day working in a public relations firm.

A full-time musician with a long list of off-beat hobbies, Dore was digging tenaciously into the grimy pit of wrestling. For some reason, there is a small circle of intellectual wrestling fans. This is an oxymoron for the average person to grapple with. Most are men, with

variations of **Woody Allenesque** demeanors, that avidly follow the inner microcosm of wrestling. They rad every printed word on the subject. Much to the average person's surprise, there are about 50 small-time wrestling newsletters. Although Dore doesn't fall quite into the Allenesque category, he is a devoted follower. Since he was a child, he followed every aspect of wrestling. As a voracious reader and studious child, who plunged himself into academic endeavors, this may seem peculiar, but this was one of his primary interests.

He watched the matches with his father on Saturday evenings, and can vividly recall the small black and white Zenith television set charged with the energy of **Bruno Sammartino** and **Buddy Rodgers**. He would jump up and down, glued to the hues of grey imagery before him that portrayed wrestling in the 1960s. Color wasn't necessary, for it was the true color of this wrestling that seeped from the very sport. There was no glitz, gold or bull. It was real and full on its own. It was simple and plain, black and white, and Dore now longed for the feeling those days evoked.

Wrestling has gone astray since then, and Dore's love of the sport sent him on a quest for the past. Or at least a compromise. It has taken a gradual downturn since the 1960s, and in the last few years, not only have the bizarre theatrics gotten out of hand, but slimy activity from within the inner framework has veered out of control. Unacceptable, immoral behavior of upper management toward employees is running rampant, and this inner immortality is seeping straight into the ring itself. Xenophobia, pedophilia and steroid abuse are just a few that only touch the surface.

A long list of names and numbers assembled through the years enabled Dore to get in contact with his wrestling cronies. Using this list as a base, he was able to get numbers of wrestlers and people in the business to hopefully secure his group of speakers. He blatantly told people there was going to be a MAJOR news conference, with the firm belief and hope that words would turn into reality. Dore threw around words like pedophilia, xenophobia and sexual abuse on the phone the way teenage girls talk about whiteheads, Clearasil and menstrual cramps.

All this talk made me anxious and even angry. I could be likened to a huge pot of meat and vegetables on the stove too long, turning into a mass of thick, sloppy stew. On one hand, I was proud of Dore, who was exploding with enthusiasm for his cause. On the other



The DeQuattros

hand, I found him too cavalier with words and thoughts to strangers. Possibly some wealthy and powerful, with no stringent set of morals or ideals. Strangers who might see Dore as the persistent summertime fly that keeps landing on your arm, then your leg, crawling around and making you itchy and driven to smash him with a newspaper. And strangers who surely couldn't care about a cute couple living their storybook life together in Queens.

A Tuesday morning at 7 a.m. is usually the middle of the night for a trumpet player, but on March 31, the phone was ringing incessantly. Both phones. CBS, WPIX, CNN and every other TV and radio station imaginable were calling the apartment. The UPI wire had run a message about the MAJOR news conference on new allegations aimed at the McMahon organization, and that Dore would be representing the Committee to Clean Up Wrestling.

Now the next trick was to hope and pray that all the wrestlers and lawyers who promised to come forth with allegations were going to make from their appearances. Dore had tentatively secured confirmations from David Shults, Sammartino, William Costopolous (the attorney who represented Dr. George Zahorian in a ballyhooed steroid distribution trial last July), Jim Wilson, Jim Stewart (the former chauffeur of WWF owner Vince McMahon) and Murray Hodgson. Nut would they show? Their promises seemed as definitive as finding Burger King in the Sahara. It was apparent the media was gearing up for Dore's one-man campaign, but if the new allegations weren't announced, it would be a mediocre news conference. A nerve-wracking scenario, indeed.

Dore used his resourcefulness to secure Wilson's Restaurant in Manhattan for the event, a venue where he and his band played every Monday night. The owner allowed him to use the restaurant at no charge. At 1 p.m., the cameramen and reporters began marching in one-by-one with their intimidating apparatuses, including CBS, WPIX, WINS, WPLJ and a host of others. The caucus table was surrounded by a barrage of equipment. Dore was anxiously racing through the restaurant while I gave out press releases. Dore's complexion had a slightly greenish tinge as sweat beaded on his upper lip and brow.

The media was there, but would the meat and potatoes of this news conference show? By 1:30, there was plenty of media but no speakers so far. Dore raced

so many times through the restaurant that his shoe heels were wearing down. The media began looking like toddlers waiting for the nurse to return with lollipops in the doctor's office. The lights were on, the cameras were ready, but the crucial panel was nowhere to be seen. Dore acted as though everything was fine. As an entertainer, he has the innate ability to make everything appear as if it is going fine, even if things are crumbling at his feet. The situation was not in shambles yet, but it was looking grim.

Finally, Murray Hodgson, like the Lone Ranger, came prancing in. He was donned in his Rayban sunglasses and a fine suit. He was the announcer who was fired for not acquiescing to upper management at the WWF for sexual favors. I went over and talked to him to assure him others were indeed on their way. His posture was that of absolute confidence, and he carried his purpose as if it were in a huge leather satchel on his back. He had experienced, first-hand, the raw and reprehensible conduct of certain executives at the WWF. He was one man to be reckoned with. He later reviewed the unembellished sequence of events that brought him to the conference, and indicated his personal desire to see justice be served.

But Murray was the only invited member who had shown up by 1:55. Well, at least it was better than nothing. Some of the media began to join Dore in his pacing, but they were pacing in their own areas among the crowd. If all the impatient people in that room were all together complaining, Dore would have been in big trouble. Luckily, this was not the case.

A small group from the "Children are Precious" organization filed in. Curtis Sliwa, the Guardian Angel, was now present. By 2 p.m., the restaurant was jammed with a colorful range of characters redolent of a Bugs Bunny cartoon with the entire cast of Hanna-Barbara visiting on one episode.

Finally, Jim Wilson the ex-wrestler strutted in. His still huge body looked like it had outgrown a bar mitzvah suit, and a dowdy toupee decorated his scalp. He looked like a not-too-distant cousin of *Nightline's* Ted Koppel. His allegations, though, were of such a serious nature, and he was to discuss them in depth.

John Arezzi and Eddie Goldman were in the crowd, and on the list of speakers. Arezzi was to speak about how McMahon tried to get his partner to turn on him so John would get kicked off the radio and lose his newsletter. Goldman was to speak on behalf of Dr. Mike Lano and Evan Ginzburg to explain how Vince's current wrestling is an inferior product.

It was now apparent that Bruno Sammartino would not be able to come. Dore got the word from a friend of his who was present the Bruno's mother was sick and he had to take her to the hospital. In addition to Bruno, Shults, Costopolous and Stewart all pulled no-

shows. Billy Jack Haynes and "Superstar" Billy Graham's attorney, Keith Grumbine, cancelled the night before. But the show had to go on.

It did, and it was moderately successful. Dore introduced his Committee to Clean Up Wrestling, and his intentions in calling forth all these people. The news conference lasted two hours, and received coverage on the 6 p.m. CBS News nationwide, WPIX and several New York radio stations. As far as the new allegations, they were only able to be discussed speculatively. Following Dore's news conference were pieces on *Now It Can Be Told* and *CBS Evening News*, and there is an upcoming story on *A Current Affair* which will discuss some of the issues brought up at the news conference. The noise was made,

and the cause discussed.

It looks like Dore will continue his nostalgic quest for many years to come. Or perhaps he'll have to rent old videos to recreate the feelings he yearns for. An age of pure wrestling which has long passed. The news conference hurricane has blown out of the DeQuattro apartment. If one looks in our window on any given afternoon, they would see me busily designing clothes at the dining room table and Dore making business calls on that antiquated phone. He frequently runs to the kitchen phone to catch another call. But the chaos has calmed. The passion of Dore's wrestling cause has lulled. But watch...He'll be back in some form.

Sunshine State News

(Continued from Page 4)

offered a last-minute tour of Lebanon, accepted and spent 21 hours in the Lebanese airport not being allowed to enter the country), and Pink Cadillac (who went to South Dakota to tend to her sick grandmother) and Allison Royal (who has reportedly moved to Detroit to wrestle for some local promotions). Give Brody credit for announcing the changes in the show were prior to bell-time. Reportedly, the fans were pissed but no refunds were asked for.

- Wild Women of Wrestling has a show tentatively scheduled May 22 at a night club in Homestead. More details next week.

- To straighten out a story from a few weeks back, I have spoken with a bunch of people concerning the incident Bambi had with American Championship Wrestling promoter Bob Cannella at an April 2 show in Duluth, Ga. The original story was that Cannella asked Bambi to do a job in her hometown, and when she refused, Judy Martin (Bambi's opponent) grew angry and shot on her. As best I could surmise, what actually happened was a disagreement over how the match would end ensued, which left Bambi unhappy. The two did not cooperate well during the match, however all problems have been smoothed over and the two worked together without a hitch on the April 20 LMLW show.

- Sales for the May 4 WWF show in Jacksonville remain slow, with only 183 tickets sold as of April 27 with Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage as the headliner. WCW has 1,200 tickets sold for its May 17 Wrestle War pay-per-view show.

- WCW likely to bomb April 30 at the West Palm Beach Fairgrounds, with a crowd of less than 500 expected.

- Eddy Mansfield's International Wrestling Federation issued a press release that would make the WWF's Steve Planamenta proud. I learned that the IWF is viewed by millions of people across the country, each television taping at Universal Studios is attended by more than 10,000 people and attendance levels at each IWF event range from 1,000-10,000 per event. Also, pro wrestling is the number one attendance draw in the country and draws "millions of people" to arena events across the U.S.

In the more realistic part of the release, Mansfield listed the stations and times where the IWF show is telecast. The show is on in four Florida cities (Melbourne, Lakeland, Tampa and Orlando), Augusta, Ga., and Raleigh, N.C. The release claims negotiations are underway for four stations in Florida, three in Alabama, two in Georgia and five in Texas. Let's wait and see.

- IWF announcer Kevin Kelly was fired last Thursday. Kelly, a Florida State graduate, had been the show's announcer since the IWF's first taping last June.

- There will likely be an IWF show May 16 in Jacksonville, which is the night prior to Wrestle War at the Jacksonville Colliseum. More than 40 fans from around the state and nation (including yours truly) will be staying at the Holiday Inn off I-95 near the airport, and a get together at the hotel bar is scheduled for 4 p.m. on May 16.

- The IWF ran five shows over the past week, with dates in Eustis, Fort Pierce, Winter Haven, Tampa and Cocoa Beach. The April 24 Winter Haven show drew 350 fans as Rob Van Dam defeated Nuclear Assassin II, Al Hardeman defeated IWF TV champion Cliff Anderson in a non-title match, Carribean Kid Berto defeated Bret Blair, Big Til defeated Randy Rhodes, The Longriders bested Dick Slater-Nuclear Assassin I (good comedy), Kendall Windham defeated Billy Brooks and Blackjack Mulligan topped The Possessor via DQ when Big Til interfered. The IWF returns with a six-man cage match in late May, and is promoting a May 2 show at the Orlando Fairgrounds.

Farouk Gives Warning; Lano on WWF

Dear Alex,

I am writing this letter to all independent workers in our profession that depend on independent promoters for work and exposure around the world. Lord knows there are enough of us, and you know by now that it is a struggle to get your foot in the door or even get looked at by the big organizations in our business. That's why I want to make you aware to stay clear from one **Thomas J. Cusati**, who claims to run Pro-America Championship Wrestling, Inc., out of Pelham, N.J.

In February 1991, **Sika the Samoan** called me and told me Cusati had two shots booked later that month in Connecticut and New Jersey and asked if I wanted to work them on my way up to Canada for some more dates. I said sure, but Cusati then called me back and asked if I would pick up Sika in Pensacola on my way out (a 12-hour drive out of my way). I said no, and he told me to forget about the dates. Cusati then called me last May, said he had a show booked in the Bronx June 29 and asked if **The Sheik** and I would be interested in working. I said sure, but I wanted a contract sent to me.

A week had gone by and I hadn't received one, so I called and got him to fax me one. I had sent him a package with promotional material that he had asked for through registered mail and got it returned. He also hadn't sent me my plane ticket. I called the New York State Athletic Commission to see if he was a licensed promoter, and they said he wasn't (confirmed in a letter by **Steve Waldman** dated March 16, 1992). I called the building (Mount Saint Michael Academy), and they said a show for that date had never been booked (confirmed in a letter from school dean **Richard Tricario** dated March 30).

Four days before the show was scheduled, he called to tell me the show had been cancelled. In the contract **The Sheik** and I had signed, Cusati agreed to give us two weeks notice if the show was cancelled. We have since filed suit in New York State court, **The Sheik** for \$685 and myself for \$655. This guy has a habit of getting hold of wrestler's phone numbers, booking them for bogus shows and then cancelling. My lawsuit will be heard May 7. Please avoid doing business with this man.

-- **Abdullah Farouk, Jr.**
Titusville, FL

Dear Alex,

Your newsletter continues to really take shape. I have immensely enjoyed the **John Arezzi** interview. Thanks for treating it as a major story. It was and is.

-- **Jeff Mullins**
Pro Wrestling Sushi editor
San Jose, CA

Dear Alex,

One aspect of Titan-gate that has barely been addressed is an age-old problem that has plagued wrestling from day one -- racial prejudice and harassment. We certainly can't blame **Vince McMahon** for the typical roles of blacks in pro wrestling or the dearth of black performers to begin with. But by purposely distancing Titan as "sports entertainment, Vince theoretically began with a clean slate. He could have openly enlisted casting calls for more minority male and female roles in positive creative roles, or at least acting jobs equivalent to those of white performers. Instead, his depiction of blacks and minorities seems worse to me than what we've had from wrestling's slimy past.

On **John Arezzi's** Pro Wrestling Spotlight, **Billy Jack Haynes** labelled McMahon as prejudiced. "Look at what he's done with blacks...an uncivilized African as **Sama Simba** with **Tony Atlas**, a slave and foot-kisser in **Virgil**, **Sapphire**, **Kamala**..." **Koko Ware's** animal-like character has been forced to dye his natural hair like his parrot, **Frankie**. I have not seen one normal black athlete go through Titan, not even **Virgil's** current character, that didn't have to say he worked his way out of a ghetto, etc. *The Cosby Show*, **Paul Rodriguez**, **Magic Johnson**, **Kareem Abdul Jabbar**...hell, even **Diahn Carroll** as **Julia** in 1967 was more up to date in perception of blacks than Titan. Blacks don't all have to have hard heads, shuffle, portray pimps or criminals, come from the ghetto or street, or be deferential to the white master/boss. That is not reflective of our culture NOW. Wrestling usually lags years behind its depictions, but to portray blacks or Hispanics as **Amos** and **Andy** must go the way of the dinosaur.

In the case of **Tito Santana**, why not educate the target child audience with some other aspect of Mexican or Cuban culture. Why not have **Tito** each week on the *Spanish Superstars* telecast educating by describing an important date in Spanish history. **Tito** has been the only Hispanic used since **Pedro Morales** retired, and **Morales** was honored as a tombstone not too long ago. How many times will we be told **Konan** is getting a WWF try-out?

If Titan is not prejudiced and serious about cleaning up racial balance and misrepresentation (one of the filthiest problems we see week in and week out), let's see them hire more minorities at both the performer and managerial level. How about giving a minority a chance at **Pat Patterson's** old match-making job? When several newsletter writers and I toured Titan Tower in our meeting with **Vince** last August, we didn't see any blacks working on any of the four floors we saw. Not even secretarial or guard positions. **Vince**, please prove me wrong!

-- **Dr. Mike Lano**
Alameda, CA

Next Issue: My college semester officially ends May 1 (although I'm sure I'll be doing plenty of make-up work for the next month), so production of *Three Count* returns to Miami. For those who don't know, I begin a 10-week internship with the *New York Times* beginning May 31 in the Big Apple. The newsletter, though, will still be produced and mailed from Gainesville. I will list my phone number for calls in New York for anyone wanting to phone in results, news stories, complain, etc., as soon as I get it. I return to Gainesville in mid-August.

In next issue, I'm hoping to have an interview with legendary ex-AWA performer **Billy Robinson** as he prepares to fight **Nick Bockwinkel** in Japan. With **Paul Hanlin Jr.** forced to miss next week's issue, we'll likely feature a guest columnist. Plus, plenty of news from the wrestling world, excerpts from an outrageous **Barry Orton** interview on **Ric Carter's** *Wrestle Talk* show and another *Ring Recall* segment. There was very little going on this week on the mat scene, thus I had the chance to do some housekeeping in regards to letters and newsletter plugs. See ya' in seven days.

Briefly...

(Continued from Page 1)

score with a sunset flip off the top rope. Flamingo took the final fall when **J.T. Southern** (who accompanied Flamingo to ringside) bonked Badd with his guitar (the amplifier was on, sending a thunderous noise through Center Stage). **Tom Zenk** ran out and tried finking to the referee, but the decision was not reversed. Southern and Flamingo then attacked Zenk, forcing **Brian Pillman** to emerge from the commentary booth to make the save. When Zenk and Pillman were being interviewed after the melee, Pillman interrupted Zenk's interview, saying he always has to bail Zenk out of tough situations. Zenk and Pillman then entered the ring and were about to fight until several WCW road agents separated the two. The angle was done to get over the Zenk-Pillman match on the *Wrestle War* pay-per-view show May 17. **Teddy Long** was the commentator for the May 16 show.

- **Add Rob Van Dam** and manager **Darryl Van Horne** to the list of those appearing for South Atlantic Pro Wrestling in North Carolina. **Shaska Whatley** is also working in the territory.

- **P.N. News** will be heading to Puerto Rico in May for a few weeks worth of dates. News is hoping to eventually land a spot in the WWF.

- Talk of journeyman **Bob Cook** being placed under a mask and teaming with another good hooded worker as **The Assassins** in WCW. The duo would be managed by **Jody Hamilton**, who was the original Assassin.

- Don't forget *Three Count's* change of address beginning with next week's issue. Please address all correspondences until mid-August to **Alex Marvez** at 8850 S.W. 19th St., Miami FL 33165. Mail sent to the former P.O. Box will be forwarded to the above address.

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